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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

IMHOFF et al.

Appln. No.: 09/524,531

Filed: March 13, 2000



Group Art Unit: 1644

Examiner: CLEMENS, K.

FOR: VASCULAR ADHESION MOLECULES AND MODULATION
OF THEIR FUNCTION

* * * * *

June 18, 2001

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the communication mailed April 18, 2001, Applicants elect with traverse Group I, directed to a CRAM-1 polypeptide (claims 1-2 and 10-13) for prosecution on the merits. Applicants disagree with the Examiner's parsing of the claims, and believe that Groups I, III and V embrace the CRAM-1 polypeptide as a common inventive concept. In particular, the CRAM-1 polynucleotides and their expression products have been inappropriately segregated. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Group I, directed to the polypeptide *per se*; Group III, directed to polynucleotides encoding the polypeptide of Group I; and Group V, directed to antibodies raised against the polypeptide of Group I; should be examined together. Reconsideration and modification of the restriction requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.143 is respectfully requested.

In compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.821 *et seq.*, Applicants also include herewith a paper copy of the Sequence Listing, together with a Computer Readable Format (CRF) version of same. The contents of the paper and CRF versions of the Sequence Listings are the same, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.821(f). The Sequence Listing has been corrected to

properly account for the use of the terms "n" or "Xaa". Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been introduced via this correction to the Sequence Listing.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants have responded to each of the concerns listed by the Examiner in the communication. An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested. Should any questions related to patentability arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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